

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 01395 290923Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 STR-05 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7770

UNCLAS VALLETTA 1395

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GSP, MT

SUBJECT: MALTA GSP UTILIZATION

REF: STATE 279724,

1. POST APPRECIATES INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL ON AGIUS REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING GSP. WHILE MALTA'S EXPORT STATISTICS ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS DETAILED THAN USG IMPORT STATISTICS (AND ARE BASED ON STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION CATEGORIES, WHICH MAKE COMPARISONS WITH TSUSA DIFFICULT), POST HAS DEVELOPED FOLLOWING RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL. IN CY 1976, TOTAL MALTESE DOMESTIC EXPORTS (I.E. TOTAL EXPORTS EXCLUDING REEXPORTS) TO THE US CAME TO 1,068,882 MALTA POUNDS (DURING MOST OF 1976 ONE MALTA POUND EQUALLED APPROXIMATELY US DOLS 2.35). MAJOR ITEMS WERE:

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	VALUE IN MALTA POUNDS
655	SPECIAL TEXTILE FABRICS AND MATERIALS	91,781
629	ARTICLES OF RUBBER, NES	312,896
831	TRAVEL GOODS INCLUDING HANDBAGS	62,911
841	NON-FUR CLOTHING	21,465

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894	TOYS AND GAMES	431,142
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893	PLASTIC MATERIALS, NES	83,590
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2. WE ASSUME LEATHER GLOVES AND LEATHER WEARING APPAREL ARE INCLUDED IN CATEGORY 841 AND THAT LUGGAGE IS INCLUDED

IN CATEGORY 831. IN THE ABSENCE OF MORE DETAILED MALTESE STATISTICS WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT PORTION OF THESE CATEGORIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE THREE PRODUCTS CITED IN REFTEL.

3. AGIUS ESTIMATE THAT SOME FIFTY PERCENT OF 1976 MALTESE EXPORTS TO THE US WERE COMPOSED OF RUBBER ARTICLES AND TOYS IS PROBABLY CORRECT. SPECIFIC ARTICLES INCLUDE RUBBER SEALS FOR MACHINERY, TOY TELEPHONES OR WALKIE-TALKIE SETS, AND OTHER PLASTIC TOYS. BASED ON CY 1974 TSUSA STATISTICS, POST BELIEVES THAT TSUSA CATEGORY 773.25 WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR MALTESE RUBBER SEALS (GASKETS) EXPORTS AND THAT CATEGORIES 684.62 AND 737.90 WOULD PROBABLY COVER THE MALTESE EXPORTS OF TOYS. POST SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT CONSULT WITH US CUSTOMS SERVICE (WHICH NATURALLY HAD TO ASSIGN AN OFFICIAL TSUS NUMBER TO THE IMPORT) FOR DEFINITIVE RULING AS TO TSUS CATEGORIES OF MALTESE IMPORTS. ALL THREE TSUS CATEGORIES LISTED ABOVE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GSP. ONE EXPORTER OF RUBBER SEALS FROM MALTA ACCOUNTS FOR TOTAL US IMPORTS AND THIS PRODUCT; THAT EXPORTER IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF GSP FOR SUCH EXPORTS. ONE MALTESE EXPORTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NEARLY ALL IF NOT ALL OF MALTESE TOY EXPORTS TO THE US AND THAT EXPORTER IS ALSO UTILIZING THE GSP.

4. POST NOTED THAT MALTA'S QUOTE GSP UTILIZATION RATE UNQUOTE EXCEEDS 80 PERCENT AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE STATISTICAL TABULATION ON WHICH THIS FIGURE IS BASED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEPARTMENT HAS PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED A TSUS CATEGORY-BY-CATEGORY LISTING OF AMOUNTS OF IMPORTS INTO US BY COUNTRY TO SOME EMBASSIES. IF SUCH A TABULATION HAS BEEN DONE, OR COULD BE DONE, FOR MALTA, IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR US TO HAVE. WILSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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